the anti-poaching infrastructure under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Control of Poaching and Illegal Trade in Wildlife".

(v) Co-operation of Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Army has been sought for conservation of wildlife in border areas.

(vi) Wildlife Institute of India is providing training to officials in Wildlife Management.

(vii) Research on various aspects of wildlife management has been taken up.

(viii) State Government have been requested to ban felling of trees in the hills, above the altitude of 1,000 metres.

(ix) World Wildlife Fund (India) has recently started a wildlife trade monitoring Unit i.e. TRAFFIC INDIA. This will help in minimising illegal trafficking in wildlife products.

Moratorium on exploitation of forests

1896. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to place a moratorium on commercial exploitation of forest in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The national Forest Policy 1988 does not provide for total ban on cutting of trees. However, it enjoins that no forest should be permitted to be worked without the Government having approved the Management Plan and that derivation of direct economic benefit from the forests should be subordinated to the importance of forests for environmental stability and ecological balance.

Air pollution

1897. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the air pollution in mist of the cities particularly in the Capital has risen to poisonous level;

(b) if so, to what extent the air of the Metropolitan cities including Delhi is polluted;

(c) what is the ratio of dust and smoke in polluting the air; and

(d) what remedial action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the air quality survey, air pollution levels in cities are, by and large, within the prescribed limits and continue to remain so. While the levels of sulphur dioxides and oxides of nitrogen are well within the limits, particulate matter in these cities is on the higher side. This is mainly due to the presence of dust and high density of vehicular traffic. This is also true for Delhi.

(b) and (c) The range of the annual averages for metropolitan cities, including Delhi, from the latest available data of the criteria pollutants monitored, are from 5 to 49 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3) for sulphur dioxide, from 11 to 30 ug/m3 for nitrogen dioxide and 88 to 510 ug/mg3 for particulate matter.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to control pollution in metropolitan cities include the following:

(1) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed for industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(2) Ambient air quality standards have been evolved;

(3) A network of ambient air and water quality monitoring stations has been set up;

(4) Metropolitan cities have been notified as Air Pollution Control Areas;

(5) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(6) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to keep the dischorge of effluents and tmissions within the stipulated limits;

(7) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units;

(8) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Government to comply with the effluent/emission standards within a time frame;

(9) Scheme for construction/augmentation of sewage and drainage system and for treatment of sewage have been taken up. Such schemes have been taken up in Calcutta under the Ganga Action Plan of the Centrol Government;

(10) A scheme has bten initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants;

(11) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas;

(12) Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the verious State Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards with effect from 1st March, 1990;

(13) Public awareness compaigns have been launched on vehicular pollution.

Irrigation Projects of Gujarat

1898. SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of proposals Government have received from the State of Gujarat under Forest (Conservation) Act, which are pending, in respect of medium/minor Irrigation Projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that considerable period lapses before the necessary permission is granted by his Ministry for such projects;

(c) whether it is a fact that existing irrigation potential created through construction of reservoirs is not being fully utilised in Gujarat due to delay in according the permission under the Forest (Conservation) Act, for the off taking canals;

(d) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have been representing that powers under the Forest (Conservation) Act should be delegated to them and if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to speed up clearance for three projects under the Forest (Conservation) Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) 15 proposals for diversion of forest land for medium/minor irrigation projects are pending as on 30.11.1991.

(b) and (c) After receipt of all the material information from the State Governments, final decision is taken expeditiously.

(d) and (e) State Governments have, from time to timt, been making suggestions in this regard. Some relaxations have been made in the rules alongwith delegation of